

height to the square. It is built on a heavy foundation, which is five feet wide at the bottom, and tapers upward to three feet at the top. The walls are two feet thick...covered with a self-supporting wood and iron roof. The tower is built of rock and extends about ten feet above the ridge of the roof. From this point, the tower will be completed in red wood and metal extending about twenty-five feet, making it in all about ninety feet high to the top of the weather vane. The tower is fourteen feet square...the walls of the building are strengthened by buttresses on the sides, front and rear...Galleries are erected on each side and end. The capacity is 1,500..."

The good people of Heber City, so many of whom had toiled and sacrificed to build it, quite naturally took special pains to furnish and maintain their beautiful new Stake House. The floors were scrubbed and bleached with homemade soap; homemade carpets were carefully laid down the aisles; coal oil lamps hanging from the ceiling furnished light. (Excerpt from article by John James) Cost of the building was more than \$30,000. Francis M. Lyman, of the Council of The Twelve, dedicated the building. Thirteen hundred persons were present.

From the diary of Elizabeth Lindsay comes the following description of the building's heating system: "The four big 'pot bellied' stoves were very important. Uncle Jessie Bond, the janitor for 30 years, went religiously from one to the other stirring them noisily and replenishing the coal and then would disappear into the back room to see about the fire there. If the stirrings came in the middle of a solo or at the climax of a great sermon, it made no difference."

The bell was rung each Sunday morning at 9:30 to remind the Saints of Sunday School and again at 1:30 p.m. to remind them of Sacrament meeting. The bell was also used as a fire alarm or for any other important circumstance that warranted a gathering of the people. For funerals, the bell was very slowly tolled as the cortege approached the Stake House. (Source: How Beautiful Upon The Mountains)

In 1964, it was announced that the Tabernacle and Social Hall to the west would be razed to make room for a new Stake Center. Those who loved the grand old building felt rage and sorrow. A group of citizens seeking to save the Tabernacle presented a petition of 1,366 signatures to the First Presidency of the L.D.S. Church. The church finance committee voted that the building not be kept as a Stake Tabernacle, but decided that if the Wasatch group could procure property for a new Stake Center, the church would turn the old building over to responsible persons. Hopes ran high and the real work began.

From *The Wasatch Wave* Oct. 8, 1964: "Church leadership has now approved an alternate site for the new 2nd-5th Ward Stake Center. \$60,000 will be needed for site acquisition." The Save The Tabernacle Fund Drive began in real earnest. Finally on July 5, 1965, the following statement was issued in *The Salt Lake Tribune*: "Hugh B. Brown, First Counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Sunday night at a special Priesthood meeting of the Heber Wasatch Stake that the old Stake Tabernacle would be preserved. A new Center will be built at an alternate site. President Brown said about 300 Priesthood members were in attendance and they all sustained President David O. McKay's decision, delivered by President Brown. This final decision came after a year's effort on the part of many individuals of the community as well as neighboring areas to preserve the historic structure." (end

of newspaper article)

On Sept. 3, 1965, *The Wasatch Wave* announced: "A history-rich red sandstone building — carved from the very hills of Heber Valley — now belongs to the people." The deed to the Tabernacle was presented to Mayor Raymond Giacoletti and the Heber City Council.

The Tabernacle was used for a few years as a summer theater but gradually fell into disuse and stood neglected by her caretakers.

In 1987, her future was again in doubt.

*Wasatch Wave* — July 8, 1987:

"In a history-making bond election Tuesday, Heber City residents approved the City Council's proposal to issue \$350,000 in bonds to restore the Heber City Tabernacle for use as a City Hall."

A new lease on life was given to the building. Restoration began on February 2, 1988. The architect was George Olson; the contractor was Union Pointe. Mayor Gordon Mendenhall and Councilmen Keith D. Jacobson, Scott Wright, Wayne L. Clegg, Lincoln A. Rasband, Bob Morris, and Clerk-Recorder Eleanor J. Nelsen supervised the project. A special thanks also to consultant Dale Berg, who finally got the ball rolling, and Daryl Shumway for his donation of skill and effort in restoring the sidewalk. Thanks also to all those who donated sandstone for this project. We now have a beautiful Municipal Building, a monument to our pioneer forefathers and gift to future generations. The City moved into its new offices on July 18, 1988. Final cost of restoration was \$500,000.



On the last day of April in 1859, eleven men left their families in Provo to come to Heber Valley. As the crops were being planted, the men camped in tents or in the wagons. They spent some of their time in laying out a town and building log houses. When this was accomplished, they returned to Provo for their wives, children, cows, pigs, chickens, and all their earthly possessions.

President Heber C. Kimball: "Now you people have named your little town after me I want you to see to it that you are honest, upright citizens and good Latter-day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you."

Many youngsters in Heber had their first automobile ride in the early 1900's. Andrew Anderson charged 25 cents for a ride to the Old Mill and back. The car was red!

The first Central School, located on Main Street, was built in 1892. It was destroyed by fire in January of 1923.

When the mill ponds froze to about a foot thick, the men would cut ice into 250 to 350 pound blocks and haul it in sleighs drawn by horses to huge ice bins, where it was packed in sawdust. Tons of ice were stored for summer use.